

FORT CLINCH STATE PARK  
2601 Atlantic Avenue  
Fernandina Beach  
Nassau County  
Florida

HALS FL-8  
*FL-8*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### FORT CLINCH STATE PARK

HALS NO. FL-8

Location: 2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina, Nassau County, Florida.  
Lat: 30.6874 Long: -81.4342

Significance: Fort Clinch is one of the most well-preserved 19th century forts in the country. Although no battles were fought here, it was garrisoned during both the Civil and Spanish-American wars. During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps began preserving and rebuilding many of the structures of the abandoned fort.  
(<http://www.floridastateparks.org/fortclinch/>)

History: Fort Clinch was started by the U.S. as defenses against sea attacks in 1847 as part of the Third American System building program ([www.nps.gov/goldcrest/sites/ftclinch.htm](http://www.nps.gov/goldcrest/sites/ftclinch.htm)). Work was stopped, but eventually re-started during the Civil War when the fort was occupied by Union troops. When the Spanish-American war ended, the fort was abandoned again. Although the fort has been preserved and partially rebuilt by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was never actually completed and foundations for more barracks can still be seen inside the fort. Fort Clinch is a pentagonal brick fort with both inner and outer walls with barracks and a hospital building on the interior.

Fort Clinch is in fairly good repair considering the age. Since it was established as a state park, it has been maintained in the condition to which the Civilian Conservation Corps restored. This maintenance maintains Fort Clinch's place in history while views of the ocean establish its setting as one of the first line of defense against attack. Repair work to the fort is only undertaken when public well-being would be jeopardized by the deterioration.

In addition to the fort, a state park established in 1937 covers the entire peninsula and preserves natural coastal hammock habitat of Amelia Island as well as several large sand dunes and salt water marsh. A road, several walking trails, two campsites, and a fishing pier are the main improvements in the natural part of the state park.

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Looking east toward the kitchen from the second floor of the barracks (Christine Foster, May 2009). When compared to a historic view looking west toward the barracks (Florida State Archives: [www.floridamemory.com](http://www.floridamemory.com), DOT0586, Date Unknown) the two images have striking contrasts - roofs have been added to all buildings and all vegetation has been removed from the parade grounds. Although not visible in the second image, a flag pole has been erected in the center of the parade ground.